



Family First Questions

1. Will any child welfare policies or procedures change when family first act is effective on 10/1? If so, what will change?

On October 1, 2021, DCF will begin gathering information related to Title IV-E prevention services via case plans and permanency plans. As the state rolls out additional Title IV-E prevention services, DSP will continue to engage with agency partners to gather federally required data for reporting purposes.

In addition, under FFPSA, minor youth can receive evidence-based Title IV-E prevention services when aimed at preventing the removal of their minor child from their care. To support this, DCF is making minor changes to how information is currently tracked and entered related to expectant and parenting youth and their children.

DCF is working to minimize additional asks to the workforce by using existing documentation (case plans/perm plans) whenever possible.

2. How is the department considering special populations that are carved out in FFPSA?

DCF's goal is that all DCF Chapter 52 and 57 facilities will become QRTP certified facilities. DCF believes that the quality of care that will be elevated by certification of QRTP facilities is beneficial for all children/youth in congregate care, but particularly for these special populations identified by FFPSA, including victims of (or at risk of) sex trafficking and pregnant and parenting teens.

3. Can DCF prepare materials to share with local stakeholders including judiciary, prosecutors, schools, and law enforcement?

We are in the early stages of launching a comprehensive strategic communications plan to effectively share this information. Some examples include: Regular updates to our Family First web page, Town Hall meetings, monthly e-news, email notifications, downloadable forms from our website and more.



4. Can DCF prepare communications to explain how child danger threats are determined and how child safety can be assured if children are left in homes where danger threats exist?

DCF is continuing to explore ways to promote how to serve more children and families in-home.

DCF has also committed to providing change management supports to agency staff and leadership through change management collaboration with Root Learning.

By working with Root Learning, DCF identified decision-making and support structures used by local child welfare agencies that increased the number of children served in-home. The research findings, methodology and a recording of a presentation can be found on the DCF website under Family First.

To help identify where your agency is at in the Child Welfare Transformation initiative, Root developed a leadership assessment tool that your agency can use to conduct a self-assessment of the behaviors important to making this transformation.

Leaders can register through PDS online at the below link.

Compass Registration Link: <https://pdsonline.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/event/3c417293-1b27-4760-802b-5aa3e5696a0a>

5. Has DCF defined who is included in at-risk youth and families under FFPSA?

The federal government has given states significant latitude in defining who is a candidate for foster care. DCF is focused on children who are at imminent risk for removal - that is children who are already in the child protection system, being served on a case plan, and without intervention, would need to be removed from their homes.



6. How does Family First affect current court cases?

There are no barriers to serving kids in-home currently. DCF has done research at the county level and more counties are serving families in-home with supportive services. A few things will change when the QRTP designations are in place. DCF will be working alongside county partners to use QRTP facilities first due to reimbursement and the higher level of care available.

7. Will there be additional funds for more staff to spend time with families?

The last biennial budget allowed for more staff in more counties. There is a proposal for an increase, and DCF hopes counties use the additional money to add more staff. Any additional funds would come from the legislator, not DCF.